

Serial No. 10/633,908
Amdt. dated June 20, 2007
Reply to Office Action of December 20, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Formal drawings are enclosed. The attached sheets of drawings include Figures 1-2. These sheets replace the original Figures 1-2. These changes replace original sheets with formal drawings.

REMARKS

In the last Official Action, Claims 1, 2, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0086227 to Sullivan ("Sullivan"). Claims 3-14 and 17-26 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 (c) as to form. The Examiner also objected to the drawings.

In response to the Official Action, formal drawings are submitted with this response. In addition, Claims 1-26 have been amended to overcome the objection as to form and to more definitely set forth the subject matter of the disclosed invention.

The subject application discloses a system for developing an emergency plan for a building wherein a digital image of a selected floor of the building is prepared from collected information such as a drawing. The digital image displays the architectural features of the building, including internal and external walls. The floor of the building is divided into zones that are coded, for example, by a color. Each of the zones is broken into segments that are defined by internal and/or external walls of the building. The segments are identified by symbols, such as alpha/numeric characters, that are unique to the zone in which the segment is located. The digital image is made available to emergency responders who can use the symbols of the segments to navigate their way through the building under emergency conditions.

Sullivan is directed to a 3-dimensional risk mapping system that can be used by emergency service providers to access data relating to the location of emergency equipment such as fire hydrants and valves and also to the location of hazard sources such as flammable materials. The risk mapping system assists emergency service providers in knowing the location of emergency equipment and hazard risks in the building. In one embodiment of Sullivan,

hazard icons can be superimposed on the risk map to identify emergency equipment or hazard sources.

Claim 1, as presently amended, is patentable over Sullivan in that, among other reasons, it requires:

organizing the digital image of at least one floor of the building into one or more coded zones, said coded zones being broken into segments that are defined by the walls of the building;
[and]

associating the segments of each coded zone with alpha/numeric characters that are unique to said coded zone;

In Sullivan, decals are used to identify hazard sources and alert emergency responders to their presence. However, Sullivan does not describe or suggest organizing the floors of a building into zones that are composed of segments that are defined by the walls of the building and coding the zones and segments as provided in Claim 1. By such coded zones and segments, the subject application discloses a system and method by which emergency responders can navigate through the building. Sullivan only identifies hazards and potential hazards that are known to exist in the building. The hazard data of Sullivan is not coded or segmented to guide emergency personnel. In Sullivan, the emergency personnel have to do their own route planning. (Sullivan, [0033]).

In addition to coded zones and segments for investigation, the disclosed invention also addresses identifying building features and equipment that are located in the building of interest to emergency personnel. For example, Claim 4 further requires, in addition to coded zones and segments,

a set of symbols that represent architectural features, and wherein said data collection is accomplished by combining said symbols

with a drawing of at least one floor of the building, said drawing showing the exterior and interior walls that are located on that floor.

Such architectural features include "elevators, stairwells, key lock boxes, door swings, utility shut-off locations, roof-top access, directional signage, emergency exits, and similar features that would be expected to be of interest to an emergency responder. Architectural features can also include landscaping and other land improvements such as parking lots, fire hydrants, trees, retention basins, and other architectural features that would be of interest to emergency responders." (See page 5, lines 20-25). These features and symbols are in addition to and distinct from the coded zone and segments that serve as navigational aids.

Claims 2-14 depend from Claim 1 are patentable over Sullivan for the same reasons stated with respect to Claim 1. Claims 15-26 are method claims that are directed to the method that is practiced by the disclosed system and are also patentable over Sullivan for the reasons, among others, that are stated with respect to Claim 1.

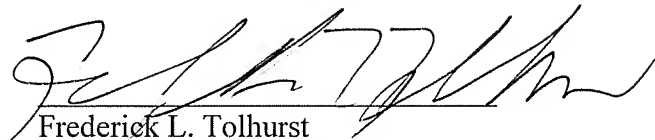
In accordance with the forgoing amendments to the claims and in view of the above remarks, allowance of Claims 1-26 as presently amended is hereby respectfully requested.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 03-2026 for any fees associated with this Amendment and Request for Consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

Formal Drawing Figures